

1	2
Patiala	7
Jallandhar	5
Amritsar	5
Kapurthala	6
Hoshiarpur	8
Gurdaspur	4
Abohar	1
Sangrur	4
Fathegarh Sahib	3
Bhatinda	3
Barnala	2
Faridkot	4
Mansa	1
Moga	1
Total :	70

Survey of Railway Line

4099. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :

*SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the survey for Kuttipuram to Guruvayoor railway line has been completed;

(b) if so, the major findings of the survey including the estimated cost and the total distance of the route;

(c) whether any change of route has been contemplated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The results of the survey are under finalisation in consultation with the Railway. The details would be available once the alignment is finalised.

[Translation]

Satellite Phone Service

4100. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start Satellite telephone service in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) INSAT Satellite System is already being used as a long distance media to provide telephone service in the country.

(b) Satellite media is being used to provide long distance media to State Headquarters/Sub-Divisional Head Quarters/Tehsils/Tourist Centres/Pilgrimage places etc. in the country. This is also being used to provide transportable/mobile phone service.

(c) The service has already started.

[English]

Mining Operation

4101. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that NMDC Limited has planned out a detailed programme to the mining operation and to privatisate its own mines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

*Mine-Accidents

4102. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mine-accidents took place during the last two years, district-wise, and mine-wise;

(b) the reasons for increase in mine-accidents; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to stop the mine-accidents?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). There is fluctuating trend in mine-accidents. Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default.

Besides the legislative measures, the Government is promoting a number of other initiatives, such as-

(i) Conference on safety in mines.